the economy of Quebec

POPULATION AND LABOUR FORCE TRENDS IN QUEBEC

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POPULATION AND LABOUR FORCE

TRENDS IN QUEBEC

Direction de l'Analyse et de la Prévision Economiques

DIRECTION GENERALE DE LA RECHERCHE ET DE LA PLANIFICATION

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INTRODUCTION

Changes in the population structure have major effects on the development of the economy as they determine the formation of households, the needs of education, and the size and composition of the labour force which, in turn, have deep repercussions on the level and nature of consumer spending and investment requirements of the private and public sectors.

Demographic trends - that is changes in population, labour force, employment and unemployment - give rise to numerous discussions, particularly in Québec. The monthly publication of employment data inevitably brings about a host of comments and interpretations which are more or less valid from a technical point of view. Our intention in putting out this document is to throw some light on the behaviour of demographic trends in Québec during the last decade.

THE POPULATION

In the period 1962 to 1972, Québec's population has gone up from 5,371,000 to 6,059,000. The population growth got gradually slower as the period progressed, with the growth rate falling from 2.1 per cent in 1962 to 0.5 per cent in 1972. This downward trend is partly attributable to a steady decline in birth rate in the last 14 years. The marked decrease in birth rate is itself due to growing urbanization, longer school attendance, increased participation of women in the labour market and improved

family planning techniques. Moreover, net immigration, especially since 1968, has hardly contributed to population growth.

The number of persons in the 0 - 14 age group has been decreasing since 1967, thus causing the growth rate of children attending primary school to also diminish. The 15 - 19 age group had been booming in the first years of the decade, but its growth rate has been shrinking since 1967. On the other hand, age groups 20 - 24 and 25 - 29 are now rapidly rising. Most workers who arrive on the labour market belong to these two groups. The number of persons in the 30 - 44 age group has more or less stabilized in the last few years, while that of the 45 and over age group is rising more sharply.

THE LABOUR FORCE

The labour force is defined as that part of the civilian, non-institutional population 14 years of age and over which is employed or unemployed. In the period 1962 - 1972, the Québec labour force increased by more than half a million people or by approximately 30 per cent, to reach 2.4 million workers.

There are two main reasons for this heavy increase in the labour force: the rapid growth of the population of working age, including net immigration, and the higher participation rate of women. The participation rate is the proportion of the labour force to the

TOTAL LABOUR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

QUEBEC 1962 - 1972

Year	Population 14 years of age and over ('000)	LABOUR FORCE					EMPLOYMENT				
		Total ('000)	Male ('000)	Male % total	Female ('000)	Female % total	Total ('000)	Male ('000)	Male % total	Female ('000)	Female % total
1962	3,528	1,852	1,373	74.1	479	25.9	1,713	1,252	73.1	461	26.9
1963	3,618	1,904	1,394	73.2	510	26.8	1,762	1,273	72.2	489	27.8
1964	3,706	1,951	1,423	72.9	528	27.1	1,827	1,318	72.1	510	27.9
1965	3,800	2,022	1,456	72.0	566	28.0	1,912	1,366	71.4	546	28.6
1966	3,898	2,116	1,493	70.6	623	29.4	2,016	1,412	70.0	604	30.0
1967	4,003	2,196	1,536	69.9	660	30.1	2,080	1,444	69.4	636	30.6
1968	4,105	2,227	1,554	69.8	673	30.2	2,082	1,436	69.0	646	31.0
1969	4,200	2,290	1,583	69.1	707	30.9	2,132	1,460	68.5	672	31.5
1970	4,287	2,328	1,607	69.0	721	31.0	2,144	1,466	68.4	678	31.6
1971	4,361	2,394	1,627	68.0	767	32.0	2,197	1,474	67.1	722	32.9
1972*	4,437	2,426	1,647	67.9	779	32.1	2,224	1,499	67.4	725	32.6

* Estimates.

SOURCE: Labour Force (71-001), S.C.

population 14 years of age and over. Since 1962, the number of Quebecers aged 14 and over has been up by 909,000. This heavy growth finds its explanation in the considerable number of babies who were born in the first post-war years and who have reached 14 years of age in the early 1960s. During the same period, the participation rate witnessed a rise of 2.2 percentage points to climb to 54.7 per cent. This increase was not due only to the rapid growth of the economy but also to socio-economic factors such as the increasing participation of women in the labour market as a result of the expansion of the services sector and the change in women's understanding of their role; the transfer of populations from country to town following rapid urbanization; etc.

The participation rate of the male population was down from 79 per cent in 1962 to 75.5 per cent in 1972. Part of the decline is obviously accounted for by the 14 - 19 and 20 - 24 age groups and is due to the fact that young men in these groups remain longer in school. Another group whose participation rate has been gradually decreasing is that of persons 65 and over, this being probably attributable to the fact that workers now retire from the labour force at an earlier age for various reasons such as the establishment of public pension plans or problems encountered due to competition from younger people with more elaborate schooling.

The number of women entering the labour market has been steadily and rapidly increasing since several years. Their participation rate rose from 26.7 per cent in 1962 to 34.6 per cent in 1972. The female labour force thus augmented by 63 per cent.

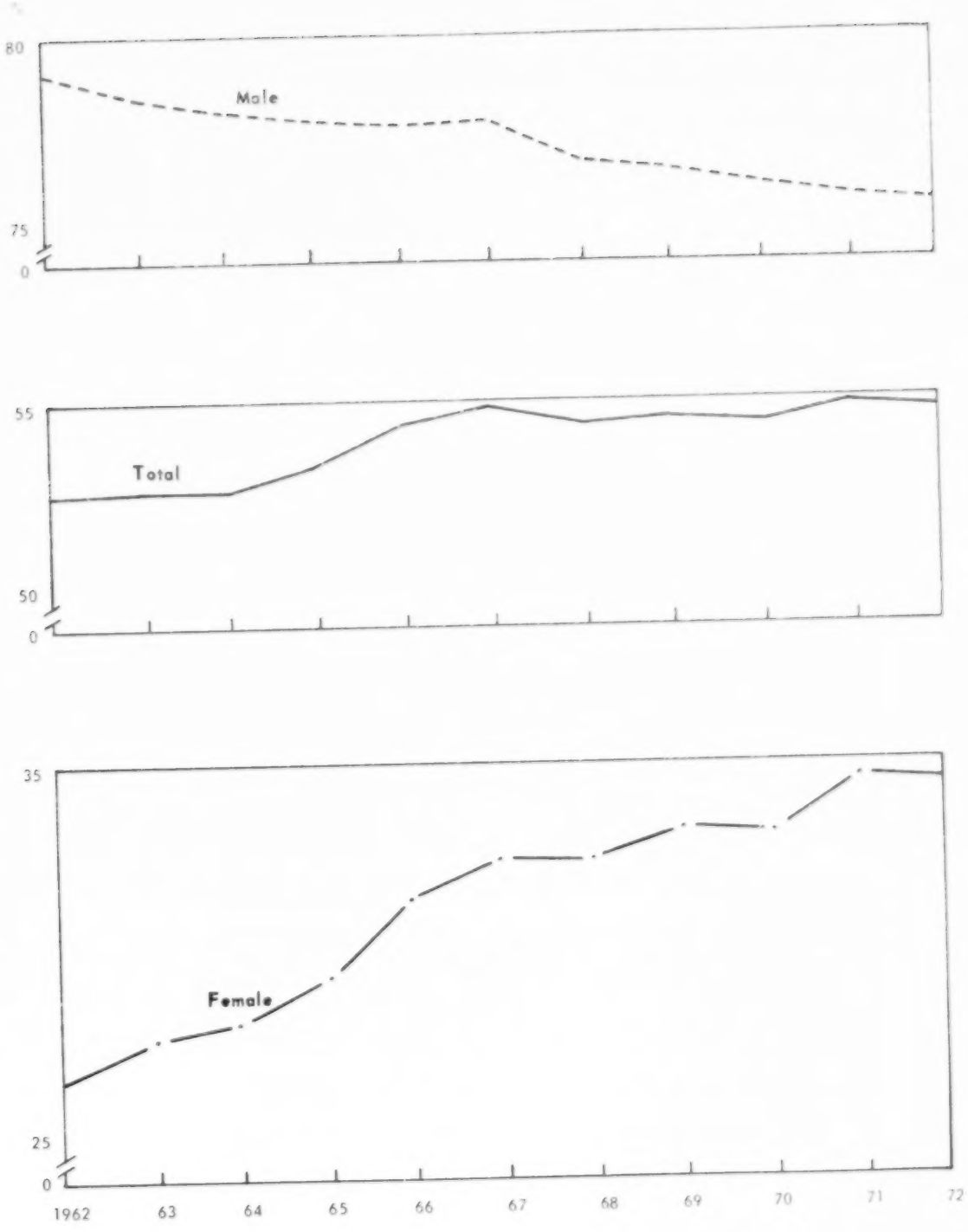
PARTICIPATION RATES
QUEBEC, 1962 - 1972

Age and Sex	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972*
M 14-19	38.8	37.1	36.0	36.9	35.5	36.3	35.3	34.9	34.5	34.8	35.9
F 14-19	33.0	31.4	31.2	32.1	33.4	32.9	30.6	27.9	28.8	28.0	28.5
M 20-24	88.0	87.1	88.3	87.3	87.1	86.3	83.5	83.7	82.2	83.0	82.4
F 20-24	52.8	54.9	54.7	55.4	59.1	61.4	62.2	63.8	62.0	64.6	64.1
M 25-44	97.7	97.2	97.7	97.3	97.2	97.0	97.1	96.5	96.4	96.6	96.7
F 25-44	24.9	26.0	26.6	28.4	30.5	31.7	31.7	34.7	35.4	37.8	38.9
M 45-64	90.4	90.9	90.4	90.6	90.7	91.5	90.0	90.5	90.2	90.0	88.5
F 45-64	21.6	23.7	24.1	25.1	27.8	28.7	29.3	28.5	28.9	31.1	29.9
M 65 and over	27.5	27.6	26.4	25.7	28.2	27.0	25.9	23.4	23.0	18.3	17.2
F 65 and over	5.1	6.1	5.4	6.3	6.1	7.0	6.4	7.3	5.7	5.6	4.7
M All ages	79.0	78.3	78.0	77.8	77.7	77.8	76.7	76.4	76.0	75.7	75.5
F All ages	26.7	27.8	28.1	29.4	31.5	32.5	32.4	33.2	33.1	34.7	34.6
Total male and female	52.5	52.6	52.6	53.2	54.3	54.9	54.3	54.5	54.3	54.9	54.7

* Estimates.

SOURCE: Labour Force (71-001), S.C.

PARTICIPATION RATES
QUÉBEC, 1962–1972



Longer school attendance by women resulted in a considerably reduced participation rate in the 14 - 19 age group. Formerly, most women entered the labour market at a very early age and retired to get married. Today, the trend has totally changed, thus producing an increase in the participation rate of the 20 - 24 age group.

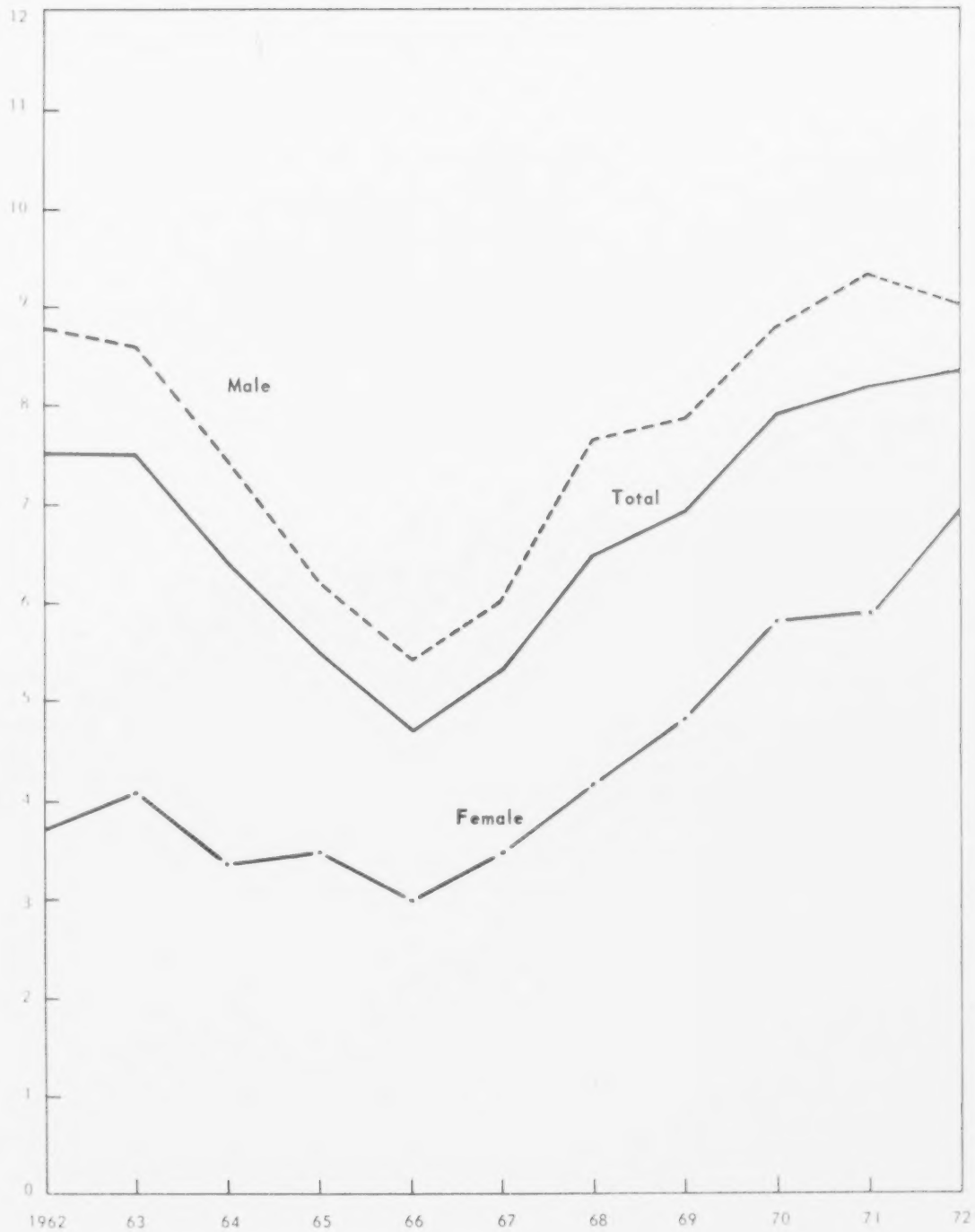
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Contrary to what occured in the first half of the 1960s, employment has not been growing enough, since 1966, to permit of absorbing all persons newly arrived on the labour market. Employment growth slowed down by the end of 1967 and since then, the unemployment rate has gone up considerably, from 5.3 per cent of the labour force in 1967 to approximately 8.3 per cent in 1972.

Women are less affected by unemployment than men. Even if the rate of unemployed women has been following a generally upward trend since 1967, it nevertheless remains considerably lower than that of male labour. This is due to the fact that women generally occupy more stable jobs and retire from the labour force (married women more particularly) when the labour market becomes difficult of less active.

It is in the 14 - 19 and 20 - 24 age groups - mainly men- that the highest unemployment rates obtain. These two groups accounted for 37 per cent of all unemployed in 1962 and this proportion had reached 45 per

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
QUÉBEC, 1962 – 1972



UNEMPLOYMENT AND
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

QUEBEC, 1962 - 1972

	UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATES		
	Total ('000)	Male ('000)	Female ('000)	Total	Male (%)	Female
1962						
ALL AGES	139	121	18	7.5	8.8	3.8
14-19	28	22	6	13.1	19.0	6.2
20-24	24	19	5	9.1	11.7	4.9
25-44	51	46	5	6.0	6.9	2.8
45-64	33	31	2	6.9	8.0	2.1
65 and over	3	3	-	6.4	7.7	0.0
1967						
ALL AGES	116	93	23	5.3	6.1	3.5
14-19	27	18	9	11.2	14.0	8.0
20-24	22	16	6	6.0	9.9	4.0
25-44	38	33	5	3.9	4.7	2.1
45-64	26	23	3	4.4	5.2	2.1
65 and over	3	3	-	7.1	7.0	0.0
1971						
ALL AGES	198	153	45	8.2	9.3	5.9
14-19	44	29	15	18.7	21.6	14.7
20-24	44	32	12	10.6	13.6	6.7
25-44	65	53	12	6.2	7.1	4.0
45-64	42	36	6	6.4	7.5	3.4
65 and over	3	3	-	7.3	9.4	0.0
1972*						
ALL AGES	202	148	54	8.3	9.0	6.9
14-19	44	28	16	18.0	20.0	15.2
20-24	48	33	15	11.5	14.3	8.3
25-44	70	53	17	6.5	7.0	5.4
45-64	38	32	6	5.9	6.7	3.5
65 and over	2	2	-	4.9	6.5	0.0

* Estimates.

SOURCE: Labour Force (71-001), S.C.

cent in 1972. Workers in these age groups are the least experienced and they are therefore the first to feel the effects of adverse economic conditions. The rate of unemployment of these young workers stands at about 14 per cent on the average.

CREATION OF JOBS

There are no actual statistics concerning the creation of jobs. Employment levels for given weeks are derived from the monthly survey of the labour force. It is only by comparing these employment levels with those of corresponding periods in preceding years that one can estimate the net creation of jobs (difference between appearance and disappearance of jobs).

However, comparisons must be made to cover periods of several months (usually one year) in view of the margin of error inherent in the monthly survey. Thus, it is possible to affirm that, for the first eleven months of 1972, 27.000 more Québecers (on the average) were working than in the same period of 1971. When the data for December become available, we shall be able to compare employment levels for 1971 and 1972 and determine the net creation of jobs for the year 1972.

CONCLUSION

The Québec population is increasing steadily but at a declining rate, while the labour force is rapidly growing. This situation makes the

finding of jobs more difficult for young men who arrive on the labour market.

The participation rate of women is constantly growing. This is mainly attributable to the fact that an ever increasing number of women, particularly in the 25 - 44 age group, practice a profession or yet return on the labour market once their children have reached school age. On the other hand, the participation rate of men is declining as a result of longer school attendance and earlier pensioning off.

Since 1967, the number of unemployed and the rate of unemployment have been increasing in Québec. Women are less affected by unemployment than men and young workers are the most severely hit.